

STATEMENT OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT CONCERNING
THE MANCHURIAN AFFAIRS, DEC. 27, 1931.

1. The maintenance of peace and order in Manchuria is a matter to which the Government of Japan have always attached the utmost importance. They have on various occasions taken every lawful step in order to secure it, and to prevent Manchuria from becoming the battle-ground of militarist factions. Only if peace and order prevail, can the country be safe either for the Chinese or for the foreigner: in the absence of peace and order it is futile to speak of the Open Door or of equal opportunity for the economic activities of all nations. But the events of September last have, in spite of her wishes, created a new responsibility and a wider sphere of action for Japan. Attacked by Chinese violence, her acts of necessary self-protection resulted, to her considerable embarrassment, in her having to assume the duty of maintaining public order and private rights throughout a wide area. The local authorities might have been expected to co-operate in upholding law and order. But, in fact, they almost unanimously fled or resigned. It was Japan's clear duty to render her steps of self-defense as little disturbing as possible to the peaceable inhabitants of the region. It would have been a breach of that duty to have left the population a prey to anarchy-deprived of all the apparatus



of any preparations being made by the Chinese for an attack. But as a matter of fact the military authorities at Chinchow are maintaining large forces at various points, west of Takushan, on the Peiping-Mukden Railway and in the adjacent territory. Reconnaissances conducted by the Japanese army have not only definitely confirmed the assurance that these forces are engaged in making preparation for war, but have also revealed the fact that their outposts are stationed along a line connecting Tienchuantai, Tai-an, Peichipao, and other points on the right bank of the River Liao, well advanced from Chinchow. It will readily be admitted that to the Japanese contingents dispersed along the South Manchuria Railway and elsewhere, but the danger is even greater than it seems at first sight, if the further fact is taken into consideration that the Peiping-Mukden Railway places the cities of Mukden, Yinkao and Hopei within a short journey of three or four hours from Takushan and Koupantsu (which are bases of the Chinese forces).

The bandit forces, (which include a large number of officers and men discharged from the Chinese army), are daily gaining strength. For instance, the number of bandits on the western flank of the main line of the South Manchuria Railway was estimated early in November at 1,300, whereas investigations conducted in early December revealed the fact that they numbered over 30,000. Moreover, they are

banded together in large groups comprising several hundreds, or even thousands, each equipped with machine guns and trench mortars; so that they can no longer be distinguished from regular troops. This points unmistakably to the existence of a state of things in which the so-called bandits are directed and provided with arms by the Chinchow military authorities. According to the statistics compiled in the Japanese Consulate-General at Mukden, the cases of bandit-raid in the vicinity of the Railway Zone numbered 278 during the first ten days of November, 341 during the second ten days, 438 during the final ten days of the month, and 472 during the first ten days of December, thus reaching the astounding total of 1,529 in forty days. It is the usual strategy of these bandit-troops, when attacked by our men, to fly westward, or to take refuge on the right bank of the River Liao; where our army, anxious to avoid any collision with the Chinese Regulars, has made it a point to refrain from further pursuit.

3. On the 24th November, the Foreign Minister of China made an intimation to the Ministers at Nanking of the principal Powers to the effect that the Chinese Government, in order to avoid any collision between Chinese and Japanese forces, were prepared to withdraw their troops to points within the Great Wall. Upon a proposal to that effect being officially made on the 26th, this Government signified their

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readiness to accept it in principle, -- at the same time instructing the Japanese Minister at Shanghai, and the Legation at Peiping, to open conversation on the matter with the Chinese Foreign Minister and with Marshal Chang Hsueg-liang respectively.

The Japanese Minister in China had several conferences accordingly with the Chinese Foreign Minister between 30th November and 3rd December. In the midst of these conversations, the latter withdrew the overture, and declined further negotiation. Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang, with whom our representative at Peiping carried on negotiations from the 4th December onwards, either directly or through the Marshal's subordinates, expressed on the 7th his willingness to call in his Chinchow forces as a spontaneous move of withdrawal; and he has since given repeated assurances as to the speedy execution of his promise. In point of fact, however, there is no sign of any such withdrawal. On the contrary, the defenses of Chinchow have since been strengthened.

4. Accordingly, at the present moment, now almost a month subsequent to the initiation of these negotiations for the withdrawal of the Chinchow troops, there appears no prospect of obtaining any tangible result, owing entirely to the want of good faith on the Chinese side. At the same time, the increased activity, above described, on the part of marauding bands, threatens to bring about a complete

destruction of all peace and security throughout the whole extent of South Manchuria. In these circumstances, the Japanese forces have now begun a general movement with a view to a campaign against the bandits on a more extensive scale than hitherto. It is obvious, from what has been said above, that the Japanese army, if it is to achieve anything like adequate success, will have to advance to the points west of the River Liao where the bandits have their base. Certainly, the Japanese forces, in deference to the Resolutions of the League Council adopted on 30th September and 10th December, are not in the field against the Regular Chinese forces; but in the present abnormal conditions prevailing in Manchuria, the necessities of the case compel them to continue their operations against lawless elements. This is a point on which the Representative of Japan at the recent session of the Council of the League held on the 10th December made a definite declaration. So long as the Chinchow military authorities, while simulating an unaggressive attitude, continue to instigate and manipulate the movements of bandit organizations against the Japanese army as well as Japanese and other peaceable inhabitants, and so long as the officers and men of the Chinchow army mingle in large numbers with these bandit groups and so render it impossible to distinguish the latter from Regular troops, so long must the responsibility for the consequences of any action which

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may be entailed upon the Japanese Army in self-defense rest entirely with the Chinese.

5. During the course of the past month, in spite of the indignation aroused throughout the country by the behaviours of the Chinchow military authorities, and in accordance with the constant desire of the Japanese Government to abide scrupulously by the resolutions of the League Council, the operations of the Army against the bandits have been restrained within comparatively narrow limits, and the Government have done everything in their power to devise means for forestalling a collision between the forces of the two countries in the course of an eventual antibandit campaign. The Japanese Government are confident that their prolonged forbearance and their desire strictly to adhere to the stipulations of international engagements will not fail to command recognition by the public opinion of the world.

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CERTIFICATE OF SOURCE AND AUTHENTICITY

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, who occupy the post of the Chief of the Archives of Foreign Office, heroby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese and English consisting of J. 6, E. 7, page and entitled "Statement of the Japanese Government concerning the Manchurian Affairs, Dec. 27, 1931" is an exact and authorized excerpt from an official document in the custody of Japanese Government(Foreign Office).

Certified at Tokyo,

on this 26 day of July, 1947

/s/ HAYASHI, Kaoru (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

At the same place,

on this same date

Witness: URABE, Katsuma (seal)

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not used

文書ノ出所並ニ成立ニ關スル證明書 (三號)

自分林義ハ外務省文書課長ノ職ニ居ル者ナル處、
茲ニ添附セラレタル日本語及ビ英語ニ依ツテ疊カ
シ日本語七頁ヨリ成ル滿洲事變ニ關スル帝國政府
第三次公報 (昭和六年十二月二十七日) ト題スル
書類ハ日本政府 (外務省) ノ保管ニ係ル公文書ノ
正確ニシテ眞實ナル爲シナルコトヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年七月二十六日

於東京

林

義



右署名捺印ハ自分ノ面前ニ於テ爲サレタリ

同日於同所

立會人

清部勝馬



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滿洲事變ニ關スル帝國政府第三次聲明

(昭和六年十二月二十七日)

一 滿洲ニ於ケル治安ノ維持ハ帝國政府ノ恒ニ最重
 要視スル所ニシテ政府ニ於テハ從來各段ノ機會ニ
 同地方ノ秩序ヲ保持シ且之ヲ阜固爭亂ノ端ト化ス
 ルヲ防カムカ爲百方道法ノ手段ヲ窮シ來レリ治安
 ノ保持アリテ始メテ同地方ハ内外人安住ノ地タル
 ヲ得ヘク又秩序テキ所門戶開放機會均等モ結局空
 名ニ終ルヘシ因ラヌモ今次事變ハ帝國ニ對シ滿洲
 ニ於ル新ナル責任ヲ加ヘ而シテ其ノ活動ノ範圍ハ
 更ニ廣汎ナルヲ致セリ即チ支那側ノ不當ナル攻撃
 ニ對シ必要ノ自衛手段ヲ執リタル結果帝國ハ長大
 ナル地域ニ亘リテ公共ノ安寧ヲ維持シ住民ノ利益
 ヲ保護スルノ義務ヲ負フノ已ムヲ得サルニ至レリ
 當時支那地方官憲ハ法律秩序保持ノ爲何種努力ノ
 機會ヲ求メス一齊ニ逃亡ハ辭職セリ斯カル狀況
 ノ下ニ無事ノ地方民ノ災害ヲ出來得ル限リ僅少ナ
 ラシムルハ固カニ帝國ノ要務ニシテ之ニ反シ我方
 ニ於テ右等良民ヲ無政府狀態ノ渦中ニ投スルカ如
 キハ正ニ前記責務ノ怠忽タルヘシ是レ我輩カ多大
 ノ犠牲ヲ忍ビ支那官憲ノ職能ヲ失ヘル地方ニ於テ
 人命財産ノ安全ヲ保持センカ爲全力ヲ盡シ來リタ

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ル所、以ニシテ畢竟我軍ハ事態自然ノ推移ニヨリ
テ其ノ欲スルト否トニ拘ラス右ノ如キ實勢ヲ資フ
ルニ至レルモノナリ
ニ右ノ如ク今次事變ノ發生ニ依リ既存諸機關ノ破
壞ヲ見タルニ止ラス滿鐵地方ニ於ケル局勢其ノ他
不逞分子ハ自然其ノ跳梁ヲ逞スニ至リタルモ我軍
ノ所在スル方面ニ於テハ其ノ威力ニ依リ漸次治安
ノ恢復ニ向ヒツツアリタリ然ルニ十一月上旬前後
ヨリ鐵道附屬地、接鉄地方殊ニ瀋陽本線西方ニ於ケ
ル此等不逞分子ノ跳梁儼ニ顯著トナリ來レル處右
局勢變ノ活動ハ錦州軍懸ノ組織的策謀ニ盡クモノ
ナルコト滿鐵ノ供進、押取文書其ノ他各種ノ情報
ニ依リ察ヲ悉レサル所ナリ錦州方面ニ於ケル第三
國武官中文部備ニ於テ何等攻撃ノ準備ヲナシ居ル
証左ナシトノ報告ヲナシ居ルモノアル處錦州官懸
カ大連打虎山以西ノ北寧線上及其ノ附近ノ各地ニ
亘リ巨大ナル兵力ヲ鎮シ居ルハ明カニシテ我軍ノ
局勢ナル偵察ニ依レハ此等軍隊カ錦州其ノ他ノ陸
屯地ニ於テ種々兵力ヲ遣ヘ居ル証跡顯著ナルモノ
アルノミナラズ其ノ首領部隊ヲ錦州ヨリ遙ニ東方
ニアル田庄臺、豐安、白旗堡等遼河右岸ノ各地ヲ
渡スル線ニ配置シ居ルコト確實ナリ而シテ右事に
カ沿線沿線其ノ他屯地ニ分散駐屯セル我軍諸部隊

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ニ發スル不圖ノ脅威タルハ何人モ首肯シ得ヘク殊
ニ北寧線ヲ利用スルニ於テハ打虎山奉天間及滿洲
子河北間ハ僅カ三、四時間内ニ到着シ得ヘキ近頃
僅ニアルノ事實ハ該脅威ノ害々大ナルヲ示スモノ
ナリ一方前記馬賊等ハ近時錦州軍多微將卒ノ改編
セラレタルモノヲ含ミ其ノ活動ノ規模愈々増大
シ居リ現ニ瀋陽本線西方ニ於ケル馬賊ハ十一月上
旬約一萬三千ト算定セラレタルカ十二月上旬ノ調
査ニ依レハ三萬ヲ超過シ且最近ニ於テハ數百乃至
數千ノ員數ト推定シ、追撃砲等ノ裝備ヲ有シ今ヤ
正義軍トノ區別殆ント困難ナル状態ニアリ何々以
テ其ノ實數ニ之ヲ推定シ之ヲ指導スル錦州軍務ノ者ニ
ルコト疑ナキヲ知ルヘシ又在奉天日軍總領事館ノ
調査ニ依レハ鐵道兩端地帯及地方馬賊兵匪出沒數
ハ十一月一日以降十日間二七八件、十一日以降十
日間三四一件、二十一日以降十日間四三八件、十
二月一日以降十日間四七二件、合計一五二九件ノ
多キニ上レリ

然上馬賊等不逞分子ノ隊衆ニ與シ我軍ニ於テ必要
ノ討伐ヲ行フヤ瀋陽本線西方ノ關口へ進軍シ遼西方面ニ
侵入スルヲ信トシ我軍ヲシテ殆ント奔命ニ疲ラシ
ムルモノアリ而モ尙我軍ニ於テ遼西地方ニ對スル
賊匪ノ遺跡ヲ取テセサリシハ同地方各地ニ駐屯ス

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ル前記錦州軍憲配下ノ支那正規兵トノ衝突ヲ避ケ
ムトスル苦衷ニ出テタルモノナリ
然ルニ偶々十一月二十四日原外交部長ヨリ在支
主要列國公使ニ對シ支那側ハ日支兩軍ノ衝突ヲ避
クル爲支那軍ノ山海關以西撤退ヲ實行スルノ用意
アル旨ヲ告ケタリ仍テ帝國政府ハ同月二十六日正式ニ
右主旨ノ提議ニ接スルヤ主義上之ヲ受諾スルト共
ニ在支帝國公使及在北平帝國代表者ニ對シ夫々原
外交部長及張學良氏トノ間ニ本件ニ關シ適合ヲ行
ハムコトヲ訓令セリ同公使ハ十一月三十日乃至十
二月三日依次ニ直リ原外交部長ト適合ヲ行ヒタル
カ同部長ハ中途ヨリ前記申出ヲ認シテ右適合ニ應
セサルノ態度ヲ示シ又在北平帝國代表者ハ十二月
四日以來張學良氏ト直接又ハ其ノ側近者ヲ介シ合
合ヲ重ネタルカ同月七日ニ至リ張學良氏ヨリ其ノ
自發的措置トシテ錦州方面支那軍ノ撤退ヲ行フヘ
キ旨ヲ開示シ來リ且爾來機變トナク右北京ノ急遽
實行方ヲ確言セルモ何等撤兵ノ事實ナク却テ同方
面ノ兵備ヲ嚴ニシ居ル實情ナリ
又錦州地方撤兵問題ニ關スル交渉開始セラレタル
以來既ニ經一個月ニ及ヘルモ支那側ノ不誠意ナル
態度ニ依リ何等ノ效果ヲ望ムヘキ前途ノ見据付
カサル間ニ前記ノ如ク賊匪ノ活躍益々猛ケツヲ極メ
來リ遂ニハ南滿洲ニ於ケル全體的治安ノ根底的破

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旋ヲ招來スルノ虞アル事懸ヲ現出セルニ依リ最近
 我軍ハ一齊ニ出動シテ從來ヨリ比較的大規模ノ陸
 軍討伐ニ着手スルノ已ムヲ得サルニ至ル處我軍
 ニ於テ陸軍討伐ノ徹底ヲ期セムカ爲ニハ其ノ根據
 地タル遼西方面ニ進出セサルヲ得サルコト前述ノ
 事情ニ依シ明カナリ國ヨリ我軍ハ九月三十日及十
 二月十日理事會決議ノ主旨ニ反シ好シテ支那正規
 兵ニ對シ攻撃ヲ加フルカ如キ主動的措置ニ出テ居
 ルモノニアラサルコト勿論ナルモ他面陸軍討伐ノ徹
 底ニ至リテハ滿蒙現下ノ特殊狀況ニ順ミ日本兵ニ
 於テ引續キ之ヲ行ハサルヲ得サル所ニシテ右ハ十
 二月十日理事會決議採擇ノ際我代表ニ於テ明確ニ
 保留セル所ナリ然ルニ此際支那軍艦ニシテ表面非
 攻撃的態度ヲ装ヘントスルモ前記ノ如ク表面ニ於
 テ我軍及我居留民ヲ目標トスル陸軍保護ノ強要的
 行動ニ出テ且石炭嶺中ニ錦州軍ノ將卒多量滲入シ
 テ正規軍トノ區別不明ナル以上我軍ニ於テ自衛上
 必要ト認ムル適當ノ措置ニ出ツル場合其ノ結果生
 スルコトアルヘキ一切ノ責任ハ前記諸條ノ根據ニ
 依リ凡テ支那側ニ於テ負擔スヘキモノナリ
 又帝國政府ハ聯盟條約不侵條約其ノ他各種條約及
 今次事件ニ關スル理事會兩度ノ決議ヲ忠實ニ遵守
 セムコトヲ期スルモノニシテ錦州軍艦ノ組織的治
 安擾亂ニ對スル日本國民ノ憤激甚タシキモノアリ

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タルニ拘ラス一個月ノ永キニ亘リ帝國軍ニ於テ該
方面ニ騎スル匪賊討伐ノ自由ヲ抑削シ其ノ間政府
ニ於テ凡ユル手段ヲ盡シ右討伐實行ノ際恣起スル
コトアルヘキ日支兩軍ノ衝突ヲ以防スルニ努メタ
ル誠心誠意ト匪忍自重トヘ全ク前記諸條約及決議
ニ達ク義務ニ忠實ナラムトスル精神ニ出テタルモ
ノナルコト必スヤ世界兵團ノ融融ヲ得ヘキヲ信ス

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